that it has a straight barrel (as must all syringes) and does not curve in any sense. The tracheostomy tube described by Toye is inserted to the trachea using a curved introducer device 34 but this is curved in one sense only along its length and appears to have a straight handle portion. There is no portion of the introducer device 34 that is curved in an opposite sense or in an S-bend, as required by the claims of the present application. If anything, the cited Toye document just supports Applicant's view that the conventional shape of dilators is to have a handle that is straight. The present invention provides a novel shape to the handle that is completely contrary to previous teaching.

Fisher adds nothing to Ciaglia and Toye other than that it discloses an endotracheal tube.

In light of the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant invention is patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and pass the same to issue at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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through the shown slots thereof, and 24 designates a syringe, per noted above. The Examiner may well have been confused by the lines drawn along syringe 24 which are actually shade hatching that the draftperson put on the syringe in accordance to accepted practice under 37 CFR 1.84 (m). See also MPEP 608.02.